

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERN 00523 011512Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 TRSE-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /077 W  
-----115924 011516Z /46

P R 011430Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BERN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5695  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMCONSUL ZURICH POUCH  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERN 523

USEEC

EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: PFOR SZ IT US  
SUBJ: NEW SWISS FOREIGN MINISTER CRITICAL OF US DECLARATION  
ON ITALIAN COMMUNISTS

1. SUMMARY: NEW SWISS FOREIGN MIN PIERRE AUBERT  
HAS CRITICIZED US DECLARATION ABOUT UNDESIRABILITY OF  
COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN ITALIAN CABINET. STATEMENT,  
MADE IN NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW PUBLISHED DAY BEFORE AUBERT  
TOOK OFFICE FEB 1, EVIDENTLY EMBARRASSED OFFICIAL GOS  
PRESS SPOKESMAN. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BERN 00523 011512Z

2. FEDERAL COUNCILOR PIERRE AUBERT (FONMIN) IN PRESS  
INTERVIEW PUBLISHED BY "LA SUISSE" JAN 31 SAID  
(EMBASSY TRANSLATION): QTE I LOVE THE ITALIAN PEOPLE,  
THEIR TALENT, CHARM AND HOSPITALITY. I JUDGE VERY  
REGRETTABLE THE AMERICAN DECLARATION AGAINST ITALIAN  
COMMUNISTS JOINING THE GOVT. IN REALITY,  
ITALY NEEDS SUCH A COLAITION GOVT. ONE MUST

KNOW ITALY TO KNOW THAT THE ITALIANS ARE ABOVE ALL ITALIANS THOUGH THEY ALSO ARE MEMBERS OF COMMUNIST OR OTHER POLITICAL GROUPS. UNQTE. AUBERT ALSO SAID THAT EUROPE HAS ITS OWN NORTH-SOUTH PROBLEM AND CANNOT CONTINUE TO LIVE WITH MORIBUND AND INVALIDS.

3. FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPT (FONMIN) PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICER FREDERIC DUBOIS TOLD EMBOFF FEB 1 THAT LA SUISSE INTERVIEW WAS GIVEN 2 OR 3 WEEKS AGO WHEN AUBERT WAS STILL SPEAKING "AS PRIVATE CITIZEN". DUBOIS STRESSED AUBERT DID NOT THEN SPEAK AS CHIEF OF FPD AND THAT STATEMENT WAS MADE BEFORE AUBERT COULD BE FULLY BRIEFED ON ITALY SITUATION. DEBOIS DREW EMBOFF'S ATTENTION TO ANOTHER AUBERT INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN "DER BUND" FEB 1 WHICH DEBOIS SAID SHOWS MORE BALANCED VIEW OF ITALIAN SITUATION. COMMENT: AUBERT MAY HAVE STILL BEEN TECHNICALLY "PRIVATE CITIZEN", BUT HE HAD BEEN CHOSEN AS FEDERAL COUNCILOR AND IT WAS ACCEPTED THAT HE WOULD BE FONMIN.

4. AUBERT SAID IN DER BUND INTERVIEW THAT HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT SITUATION, DEMOCRACY, IN ITALY. SAID IT CANNOT CONTINUE MUCH LONGER WITH ACTIVITIES OF EXTREMISTS FROM RIGHT AND LEFT. IT IS NOT ONLY ITALIAN COMMUNISTS HE FEARS. HE KNEW SEGRE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BERN 00523 011512Z

HAS SHAKEN HAND OF BERLINGUER. AUBERT DESCRIBED BURLINGUER AS "GREAT GENTLEMAN" WHO STANDS FAR ABOVE FRENCH COMMUNIST MARCHAIS. AUBERT NOTED THAT ITALIAN COMMUNISTS HAVE STOOD WITH SWISS AGAINST FRENCH COMMUNISTS IN COUNCIL OF EUROPE, AND THAT EVERYONE KNOWS ITALIANS ARE, AND REMAIN, NATIONALISTS FIRST.

5. "VATERLAND" FEB 1 CRITIZED AUBERT'S "LA SUISSE" STATEMENT AS DEPARTURE FROM SWISS NEUTRALITY POLICY. SAID PREVIOUS SWISS FONMINS FOLLOWED UNWRITTEN ROLE OF AVOIDING MAKING PUBLIC JUDGMENTS OF OTHER STATESMEN AND THEIR POLICIES. NOT BECAUSE SWISS LACK INTEREST, BUT TO KEEP OPEN OPTIONS FOR SWISS DIPLOMACY. VATERLAND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT NEW SWISS FONMIN INTENDS FOLLOW "UNDIPLOMATIC" DIRECT STYLE.

6. SWISS TV NEWS PROGRAMS JAN 31 GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO LA SUISSE INTERVIEW STATEMENT. HOWEVER, NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG FEB 1 MADE ONLY MINOR MENTION OF AUBERT'S STATEMENT CRITICAL OF US. NEITHER JOURNAL DE GENEVE NOR TRIBUNE DE GENEVE REPORTED IT. ODELL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, COMMUNISTS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BERN00523  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780048-0347  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BERN USEEC  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t197802108/aaaadnla.tel  
**Line Count:** 116  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 137b08ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3447684  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW SWISS FOREIGN MINISTER CRITICAL OF US DELCARATION ON ITALIAN COMMUNISTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SZ, IT, US, (AUBERT, PIERRE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/137b08ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014